

## **REMARKS**

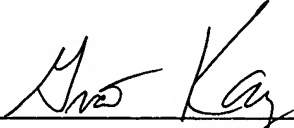
### ***I. Amendment to the Claims***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, 17 claims are pending in the application. Of the pending claims, 2 claims are independent. The claims were amended to remove multiple dependencies and to better conform to the claiming standards of the United States Patent & Trademark Office and the patent laws of the United States.

### ***Conclusion***

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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